

**To:** Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ogburn, Stephanie  
**Sent:** Fri 8/7/2015 2:29:25 AM  
**Subject:** Re: epa statement on mine waste

Rich, here's some questions that i would love to get answered. Thanks!

Was it a contractor or employee that triggered the spill?

How many employees or contractors were on site when the spill occurred?

How many employees or contractors were working on the project at the site?

What was the trigger/how was it triggered? Was a plug removed? Did heavy equipment cause material to shift?

Is the EPA liable for damages caused by this spill?

How do you know how much water spilled? What's the best estimate now?

What is the damage to the Animas river and rivers downstream?

How is the agency testing the water for contamination and when will you have those results?

How long will the river be dangerous to humans?

How long will the river be dangerous to fish?

Thanks!!

Sent from a tiny handheld device

On Aug 6, 2015, at 12:31 PM, Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov<mailto:Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>> wrote:

We will be getting updates from field staff later, will keep you apprised.

From: Ogburn, Stephanie [mailto:Stephanie.Ogburn@kunc.org]  
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 12:09 PM  
To: Mylott, Richard  
Subject: RE: epa statement on mine waste

Are you doing a press conference? A call-in or anything? Thanks!

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Stephanie Paige Ogburn  
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From: Mylott, Richard [mailto:Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 11:46 AM  
To: Ogburn, Stephanie

Subject: RE: epa statement on mine waste

Hi Stephanie—I should have more info later.

August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.

From: Ogburn, Stephanie [mailto:[Stephanie.Ogburn@kunc.org](mailto:Stephanie.Ogburn@kunc.org)]  
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 11:44 AM  
To: Mylott, Richard  
Subject: epa statement on mine waste

Hi Rich,

I was wondering if you could send me the epa statement on the mine waste release.

Also, is there anyone at EPA I can speak with about what happened? Thanks a lot.

Thanks,

Stephanie

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